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President's Notes

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But first and foremost, we teach. The professional education of our officer corps . . . is the essence of the Naval War College experience. Everything else we do here exists to support that goal.

President's Notes

AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, I have found the past several months to be an exciting mixture of hard work to catch up on all the activities here and profound admiration for the accomplishments of this wonderful institution. Previous to this new assignment, I spent an extremely rewarding year as Commander of Nato's Standing Naval Force Atlantic. In a radical departure from much of that force's previous experience, we spent our entire time in the Adriatic Sea enforcing the UN embargo of arms against the warring parties of what used to be known as Yugoslavia. Those twelve months gave me a better understanding of the complexity of the international military effort in the region, as well as a tremendous appreciation of the superb

Rear Admiral Stark was commissioned in 1965 at the U.S. Naval Academy, studied at the University of Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar, and earned a doctorate in political science at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He has served on the Navy Staff, the National Security Council staff, and as Executive Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel. His sea service has included command of USS *Julius A. Furer* (FFG 6), USS *Leahy* (CG 20), and, from 1994 to 1995, the Nato Standing Naval Force Atlantic, deployed in the Adriatic Sea. He assumed the duties of President of the Naval War College in June 1995.

professionalism of all the forces involved. The recent offensive strikes by Nato air and surface forces, and the resulting progress in the negotiations there, only reinforce my admiration for all the men and women who remain behind. It is against that background of recent operational experience that I view my new job here in Newport.

Since arriving at the Naval War College, I have been especially impressed with three particular aspects of this institution. The first is the continuing rigor and relevance of the curriculum. Many of you may remember that the current academic structure—three trimesters, concentrating on strategy, management, and tactics—was established almost a quarter-century ago by Admiral Stansfield Turner. That “revolution” was by no means an easy task. So it is a great testament to the farsightedness of Admiral Turner and the academic team which supported him that his legacy remains in place today. To be sure, the names have changed slightly. We now speak of Strategy and Policy, National Security Decision Making, and Joint Military Operations. But the essence of those ideas and the intellectual breadth of that revolution are still clearly at the fore. Within that structure, however, there have been enormous changes. Naval strategy and doctrine have evolved to keep pace with our dynamic security environment. Joint operations—ensuring that the various instruments of military force are orchestrated to create a symphony of national assets rather than a cacophony of individual policies—have become the cornerstone of the operations course. Strategy and management case studies to challenge our students have been constantly updated to reflect the latest in defense thinking. This is truly an outstanding professional education.

Second, I have been impressed with the superb quality of the faculty and staff, as well as their wholehearted dedication to excellence. Sitting in on their lectures and seminars, reading their many published works, and seeing daily their enthusiasm for their work makes me immensely proud to be part of their team.

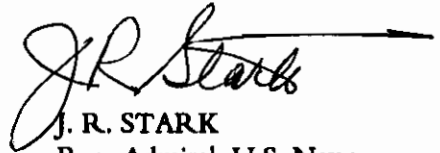
And, finally, I have been impressed with the multitude of activities that are in progress here. Certainly, teaching officers and civilians from all branches of the military and government is our primary focus; but hardly a day goes by that a team from the Naval War College is not traveling to another location to put on a seminar, hold a conference, or give a lecture. The War Gaming Department continually is conducting one or more games while simultaneously preparing future games to be held here in Newport, in Washington, or elsewhere as needed. Also, we regularly bring in civilian scholars, conduct evening lectures on issues of current civilization, hold seminars for high-ranking officers from Eastern Europe and other regions, publish books and monographs, and stand preeminent in research on a whole host of naval and maritime topics.

But first and foremost, we teach. The professional education of our officer corps—preparing them to deal with a rapidly changing environment, expanding

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their intellectual horizons, and giving them the tools to master unexpected and unusual issues—is the essence of the Naval War College experience. Everything else we do here exists to support that goal. That has remained constant since we were founded more than a century ago.

I welcome you to another issue of the *Naval War College Review*. I hope you enjoy the wide range of professional and thought-provoking articles presented here. They reflect just a portion of the work that goes on here in Newport and of the interests of the College. I look forward to your comments and to working together with you to expand our knowledge of our demanding profession.



J. R. STARK
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College

